

Message Text

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P R 131422Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8527

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS PANAMA 4943

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS QUOTES TORRIJOS ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE

1. PANAMA ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY, STAR AND HERALD, SEPTEMBER 13 CARRIES AP STORY REPORTING COMMENT OF GENERAL TORRIJOS MADE AT LINEA DE LA CONCEPCION, SPAIN, ON DEATH OF PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE.

2. ITEM BEGIN QUOTE: " PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE'S TRAGIC DEATH HAS SHOCKED ME DEEPLY," BRIG. GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS, PANAMA'S LEADER, SAID HERE TODAY.

"ALLENDE EXTENDED ME A CORDIAL FRIENDSHIP AND MY PEOPLE WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT HE GAVE OUR CAUSE TO RECOVER THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE," HE DECLARED.

GEN. TORRIJOS VISITED THIS CITY TODAY AS PART OF A TOURIST TOUR OF SPAIN HE HAS BEEN MAKING SINCE SEPT. 8. THE CITY LIES NEXT TO GIBRALTAR.

"AS THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE, GIBRALTAR IS AN OUTPOST OF INTERNATIONAL COLONIALISM," GEN. TORRIJOS DECLARED.

"THE SAME FENCE, THE SAME POSITION OF INTRANSIGENCE,
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THE SAME SOLDIERS, THE SAME LANGUAGE AND THE TWO TRES-

PASSING AND INSULTING FLAGS.

"TODAY," HE CONTINUED, "UPON SEEING THE ROCK AND THAT FOREIGN FLAG ON SPANISH SOIL, I UNDERSTOOD GREAT BRITAIN'S ABSTENTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHEN THE PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES WAS VOTED ON.

"GIBRALTAR AND THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE ARE TWO SYMBOLS OF OPPROBRIUM FOR MANKIND. WHEN PANAMA AND SPAIN ARE FREED OF THE ANGLO-YANKEE COLONIALISM, I WILL COME AGAIN TO VISIT THE ROCK AND TO SALUTE THE SPANISH FLAG ON IT." END QUOTE.

3. SPANISH LANGUAGE GOP CONTROLLED PAPERS, CRITICA AND MATUTINO, CARRY ESSENTIALLY SAME STORY WITH BANNER HEADLINES BUT WITH EFE ATTRIBUTION.
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